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FM AMEMBASSY VATICAN
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1241
INFO RUEHTG/AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA PRIORITY 0013
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY 0034
RUEHME/AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY 0042
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 0044
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY 0019
RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY 0006
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0128
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 0092
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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [KIRF](#) [HO](#) [VT](#)

SUBJECT: (C) VATICAN ON HONDURAS: MICHELETTI SHOULD RESIGN.

REF: A. VATICAN 5

[1](#)B. 09 VATICAN 99 (NOTAL)

[1](#)C. 09 VATICAN 83

[1](#)D. VATICAN 10

CLASSIFIED BY: Rafael P. Foley, Pol Chief.

REASON: 1.4 (b), (d)

[1](#)1. (C) The Vatican's Secretariat of State point person for Central America, Monsignor Francisco Frojan, confirmed to polchief on January 19 that the Vatican supports the implementation of the Tegucigalpa-San Jose Accord, including the formation of a unity government and the establishment of a truth commission. For that to happen, he added, Micheletti should resign. Frojan said this would allow president-elect Lobo to start on more solid ground and for Honduras to regain the support of the international community faster.

[1](#)2. (C) Speaking in a personal capacity, Frojan said he was disappointed with Lobos' lack of leadership in pushing for reconciliation. Frojan also faulted Zelaya for continuing to play a less-than-constructive role. Despite this, Frojan thought that it was still possible for Hondurans to come together and form a unity government before Lobo's inauguration on January 27. Frojan was not aware of any specific initiatives the Catholic Church in Honduras is taking to push for the implementation of Tegucigalpa-San Jose.

[1](#)3. (C) Comment: While pledging support for Tegucigalpa-San Jose, Frojan did not seem to think there was a role for the Vatican -- or the Church in Honduras -- to play in facilitating the transition to Lobo, other than making general statements in support of reconciliation, like the Pope did recently (ref. A). The Vatican has stood behind Cardinal Rodriguez Maradiaga (ref. B and C) -- even if it was sometimes uncomfortable about the Honduran Church's entanglement in politics. Throughout the crisis, the Vatican has abstained from officially commenting on the legitimacy or the international legal status of the de-facto regime. As President of Caritas International, the Cardinal is currently engaged on Haitian relief efforts (ref. D). Under the circumstances, the Vatican is likely to keep to itself any differences with him. End comment.

DIAZ